

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 15, 2002
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Honolulu International Airport
Interisland Conference Center, 7th Floor

Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

SAC Members Present: Sallie Beavers, Athline Clark, James Coon, Elizabeth Corbin, Margaret Dupree, William Friedl, Eric Gilman, Walter Haas, Isaac Harp, June Harrigan Lum, Louis Herman, Cindy Knapman, John Laufer, Teresa Leicher, William Lennan, Naomi McIntosh, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Jerry Norris, Richard Poirier, Robert Smith, Michael Stanton, Michael Tosatto, Jeffrey Walters, Dean Watase (for Glenn Soma), Reginald White

SAC Alternates Present: Marc Lammers, Rene Mansho, Sara Peck

Excused: Glenn Soma

Absent: Paul Lucas, John Reghi, John White

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Claire Cappelle, Carol Carey, Kellie Cheung, David Mattila, Liza Simon, Jean Souza, Jerry Stowell

NWHI Reserve: Aulani Wilhelm

FLORIDA KEYS NMS: June Cradick

NMSP: Sean Corson, Elizabeth Moore

PUBLIC: Hannah Bernard, Irene Bowie, Merrill Kaufman, Dwanne Meadows

Distributed Materials:

- Final Agenda
- SAC Action Item Status Report (October meeting)
- Sanctuary Activity Calendars (January – December 2001 & January – May 2002)
- Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Conservation Subcommittee Report
- Education Subcommittee Report
- Program Development Committee Report
- Signed resolution in support of a Big Island Sanctuary Office (with cover letter to Mr. Daniel Basta, National Marine Sanctuary Program)
- SAC Charter Violations
- HIHWNMS Management Plan Draft (December 2001)
- Sanctuary Watch, Dec/Jan issue

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by SAC Chair James Coon at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Coon identified changes to the agenda, noting that the discussion of the revised SAC charter cannot be placed on the agenda since the issue was voted on and finalized at the last meeting. If anyone is interested in revisiting this issue, it must be verbally requested by someone who voted against it at the last meeting.

Mr. Coon introduced new SAC alternates Marc Lammers for the Research seat and Sara Peck for the Hawaii County seat. He also introduced guests from NOAA: Sean Corson, June Cradick and Elizabeth Moore. Naomi McIntosh introduced the new Sanctuary Research & Rescue Coordinator David Mattila and the new Education Specialist on Maui Jerry Stowell. Jeff Walters introduced new SAC member Jerry Norris from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coon stated that the oversight from the final minutes from the last meeting has been rectified. The vote on the motion to approve and distribute the Conservation Subcommittee's letter on the HISWTR project was not captured. The motion did carry with a vote of 16 to 0 with 2 abstentions. The letter will be distributed following this meeting.

MOTION: Accept the minutes from the last meeting with amendment. Motion carried.

Public Forum

Mr. Coon asked the members of the public to introduce themselves. The following were in attendance: Irene Bowie, Merrill Kaufman and Dwanne Meadows (Pacific Whale Foundation), Aulani Wilhelm (NWHI Reserve), Claire Cappelle, Liza Simon and Jean Souza (HIHWNMS) and Hannah Bernard (Maui Ocean Center).

Reports and Updates

SAC Chair

Mr. Coon reviewed the status of the October SAC meeting action items (see Attachment 1)

Acting Sanctuary Manager

Ms. McIntosh announced that this would be Kellie Cheung's last SAC meeting as she was leaving the program. Ms. Cheung has served as Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator for over six years. During this time, Ms. Cheung has provided dedicated and professional support to the SAC and the sanctuary program. Ms. McIntosh went over the Acting Sanctuary Manager's report (see Attachment 2). She extended a *mahalo* to SAC members who helped in recent Sanctuary public events. These included Patty Miller, James McCarty, Bill Lennan, Bill Friedl, Teri Leicher and Rene Mansho. Upcoming events include the Sanctuary Ocean Count which will take place on three dates this year (January 26th, February 23rd and March 30th), the Big Island lectures and the Honolulu Advertiser insert due out on February 6th. The Honolulu Advertiser project is part of their Newspaper in Education (NIE) program. The Sanctuary will have a 12-page insert on the Sanctuary and humpback whales. The insert provides curriculum activities to teachers and students. The special insert has a circulation of 200,000 with 45,000 distributed directly to the schools. This publication is planned to coincide with the announcements for public meetings on the Management Plan Review. Lou Herman expressed concern about the accuracy of the whale facts before publication. Ms. McIntosh stated that both Dr. Herman and Mr. Mattila will edit text before publication.

Ms. McIntosh called attention to newly published Office of Ocean Exploration booklets provided by Bill Friedl and a poster on marine debris distributed by Cindy Knapman from WESPAC.

State Co-manager

Dr. Walters had nothing to add to the State Co-Manager's report (see Attachment 3).

Subcommittee Reports

Conservation: Eric Gilman indicated that the meeting minutes from the Conservation Subcommittee were provided on email. Printed copies were also available (see Attachment 4).

Education: The Education Committee report will be presented later when Patty Miller is in attendance.

Research: Paul Nachtigall stated there had been no Research Subcommittee meetings. He welcomed Marc Lammers and David Mattila. He affirmed that the Research Subcommittee will have a meeting before the next SAC meeting.

County Reports

Hawaii : Sallie Beavers gave a verbal report on Hawaii County. She also announced that this would be her last SAC meeting before maternity leave and introduced alternate Sara Peck as her replacement.

O‘ahu: Bill Friedl mentioned that in addition to the Honolulu County report, he wanted to commend the Sanctuary staff on the good job of expansion of educational and outreach activities.

Kauai: Walter Haas apologized for not having a printed report on Kauai County. Activities on Kauai included meeting with Lori Arguelles from the NMSF, the Ocean Users Workshop in November which had a smaller audience but included all first timers who were supportive of the Sanctuary’s aims, a phone visit with NOS Acting Deputy Director Margaret Davidson, the dedication of the Kauai Sanctuary office and the attendance of Jean Souza and a Kauai volunteer at the Maui naturalist training workshop with Steve Zeff. Upcoming activities include planning training for the Ocean Count and the 5th Annual Family Ocean Fair in March. Kauai also had a recent incident of an entangled whale off the harbor. Staff was able to photograph the whale at Poipu. No further contact has been made.

Maui: No report given for Maui County since representative was absent.

Working Group Reports

Vessel Collision: Mr. Friedl gave a report on the Vessel Collision Working Group. Now that the Vessel Workshop will be national, the working group will likely change. The group will wait for the information from Marc Lammers report before they meet again.

Program Committee: Dick Poirier stated that the SAC Program Subcommittee report was in hardcopy (see Attachment 5).

Management Plan Review Update

Liz Moore gave a national update on NOAA activities: Admiral Lautenbacher was appointed the new head of NOAA; the Management Plan Review Team will be meeting at the upcoming National SAC meeting in Florida at the end of January; the SAC handbook is being finalized; Channel Islands NMS has their draft management plan pending NOAA confirmation and is expected to be approved in late spring; Cordell Banks, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay NMS’s are in the scoping process and should finish this month; Florida Keys, Grays Reef and Stellwagen NMS’s have their management plan drafts in process. NWHI Reserve’s operations plan is under review at the NOAA level with designation process due to start this February; the Hawaii Sanctuary’s draft Management Plan is being reviewed with an anticipated early February release and public review meetings planned for the week of March 4-8. The SAC’s help will be needed during the public meetings and today the SAC will have some training for that process. The public comment period will be open through April. The document will then be edited and revised and submitted for NOAA clearance. The final document will be submitted to the governor by June 7. Dr. Walters passed out a section of the draft Management Plan. Ms. Moore mentioned that time is very important as there are five other public processes going on in Hawaii right now. (NOTE: Public Review Meetings have been postponed and will be held starting May 1 to May 9, 2002. The public comment period will, likewise, be extended)

June Cradick gave an update on the Florida Keys NMS 5-year review process and how they handled their public meetings. Ms. Cradick, Ms. Moore and Sean Corson conducted roundtable and facilitation exercises and training with the SAC members to familiarize the members with the public meeting format.

Kona Blue Water Farms Presentation

Neil Sims presented information on a proposed open ocean fish farm off the Kona coast. (see Attachment 6). Questions raised by the SAC included where the location of the hatchery would be and the size of the brood stock. Mr. Sims indicated that the hatchery would be on the Big Island and that they were reluctant to commit to a number on their brood stock before they have their business plan. It was pointed out that the proposed location is within Sanctuary waters and was also just north of the manta ray dive sight. Mr. Sims stated that they were aware of the recreational use in proposed site area, however they feel the longshore drift would move the effluent away from manta ray site which is a 1/4 mile away from the proposed site. He also stated that they were aware that the bay is the resting sight for the biggest pod of spinners on the Kona coast. His general sense is that the spinners and dolphins' pattern of movement is towards deeper water in a zigzag pattern. If the spinners came into the area of the cage they would move to avoid them. The cage would not interfere with their resting areas. Mr. Lammers pointed out that studies of the spinner dolphins' nighttime foraging patterns now show that their prey moves into shallower waters at night (between 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Mr. Sims was asked if his firm planned to do any studies on the impact to humpback whales. His response was "no." They now have a grant just to look at fish species. He was also questioned on whether the introduced nutrients would impact the ecosystem. Mr. Sims replied that evidence from Eva Beach cage indicates impact only within immediate imprint of the cage. Mr. Coon requested that the Conservation and Research Subcommittees address the impact on the whale. He further commented that as Mr. Sims had previously stated, this is the future and we do have a fiduciary responsibility to the resource to address these issues.

Sanctuary Naturalist Training Program

Patty Miller gave the Education Subcommittee report on the feasibility of a Sanctuary Naturalist Training Program (see Attachment 7). She asked for volunteers (SAC and general public) to join the Working Group tasked with this project. Ms. Miller introduced former SAC member Hannah Bernard to give her comments on the subject. Ms. Bernard questioned why the Sanctuary would take on this project when they have limited resources and there already is a National Naturalist Program in place. She stressed the need to get feedback from educators. Ms. Miller also introduced Merle Kaufman who gave her comments on the importance of proper training and the need to use techniques or strategies that work well. Discussion followed among SAC members on what type of a program they envisioned and whether it was needed. Ms. Miller stated that by next meeting, the Working Group will make a recommendation on what the sanctuary needs to be involved in. In closing, Ms. Miller mentioned the upcoming Kidscience broadcasts on the Sanctuary. She will be contacting SAC members for participation.

Unfinished Business

Isaac Harp brought up the SAC charter proposal amendment. Ms. McIntosh explained that the Sanctuary went through the proposed amendments, added comments, and sent the document to headquarters. Ms. Moore has it and will review and discuss it with the Sanctuary. A status report will be given at the next SAC meeting.

New Business

Boater Outreach

ACTION: The Conservation Committee requests that the SAC Chair create a SAC Boater Outreach Working Group to work with NMFS and USCG enforcement to identify outreach priorities and define a role for the Sanctuary program. (John Reghi and a second person (SAC voting member) to be considered for co-chairs).

EXECUTIVE ACTION by Mr. Coon on the Boater Outreach Working Group. Reg White was nominated to be chair with John Reghi assisting.

Dr. Walters stated that the new administration within the Boating Division is in support of a partnership on boater outreach. Anyone who wants to be on the working group should contact Mr. White. Michael

Tosatto is working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to become involved. Ms. McIntosh requested that those who volunteer should “cc” Dr. Walters so the Sanctuary staff knows who the participants are.

Enforcement

ACTION: The Conservation Committee submitted a resolution commending work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary. No motion – resolution sent back to the Conservation Committee

Vessel Strike Workshop

ACTION: In light of information regarding NMSP plans to convene a national vessel strike workshop next fiscal year in California, the Conservation Committee recommends that the HIHWNMS not pursue convening a Hawaii vessel strike workshop, as it would likely duplicate the effort of the California national workshop, and instead the HIHWNMS should prioritize conducting a threat assessment as soon as possible.

MOTION: Mr. Gilman asked that the SAC recommend the co-managers prioritize holding a Threat Assessment Workshop earlier than planned and to include money in budget for an FY03 study and workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

HISWTR

ACTION: The Conservation Committee requested that researcher Robin Baird be invited to give a presentation to the SAC to discuss recent research results which have implications for the potential impacts from the planned Navy HISWTR activities. Mr. Coon stated that Mr. Baird will be placed on the short list for presentations.

SAC Appreciation

MOTION: Mr. White requested that the SAC adopt a resolution expressing appreciation and best wishes for SAC Coordinator Mrs. Kellie Cheung. Motion passed unanimously with suggestion that her first name be used in the resolution.

Shark Feeding

Dr. Walters brought up the possibility of a group seeking a permit for shark feeding from the State Land Use Board. He stated that DLNR is taking the position that this is not acceptable within humpback whale habitat areas. The group seeking the permit is planning on going to the 3.1 mile location outside State waters. He asked if the SAC would like to take a position on the subject. Mr. Lennan reminded the SAC that they technically cannot go to the Land Board directly.

MOTION: Dr. Nachtigall moved that the SAC recommend that the Sanctuary Manager recommend to the Co-Manager that he recommend to the Land Board against shark feeding for tourism. Motion carried 16 to 0, with 1 abstention.

Blue Water Farms Proposal

Ms. Beavers asked if the proposal by Blue Water Farms would be within the goals of the sanctuary. She recommended the managers check with NOAA general council to get clarification. Ms. McIntosh stated that it would not be a regulated activity under the Hawaii Sanctuary but there may be some issues on take. She will ask NMFS for their opinion and will check with NOAA general council.

Robert Smith stated that both shark feeding and fish farms could have impacts on whales and that we need to look at both. Mr. Lennan added the importance of the Ocean Counts to determine where the whales are. Also, a need for better research plans to determine where whales aren't since that would be the better place to locate future fish farms. Ms. Harrigan Lum stated that the Department of Agriculture is looking into a site study on fish farms.

Derilict Fishing Gear

MOTION: Mr. Harp moved that management send a letter to NMFS identifying migratory path of humpback whales and encourage NMFS to minimize use of longline fishing gear in this zone with the EEZ. Dr. Nachtigall pointed out that no one knows the migratory path of humpback whales. Mr. Coon requested that the motion be referred to committee and not be brought to a vote.

Public Forum

Hannah Bernard suggested ideas for the use of future Sanctuary research funding.

Announcements

Next meeting – April. (NOTE: April 9th will be the next SAC meeting)

Ms. McIntosh needs to get comments from SAC on the draft Management Plan. It was suggested that island representatives meet to provide comments prior to public meeting on their island.

Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

OCTOBER SAC MEETING ACTION ITEMS Status Report

ACTION: Amend final minutes from the October SAC meeting to correct errors in the voting record.

STATUS: Minutes were amended and finalized.

ACTION: Forward the Conservation Subcommittee's letter on the HISWTR project to Rich Minero of the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

STATUS: Letter to be signed by Jim Coon at the January meeting and mailed the following day.

ACTION: Incorporate amendments into the Big Islands Sanctuary Office Resolution and send out.

STATUS: Resolution was finalized and signed by Jim Coon. It was forwarded to Dan Basta on December 14, 2001 (copies available on table).

ACTION: Mr. Coon was requested to arrange for a presentation by Kona Blue Water Farms at the next SAC meeting.

STATUS: Presentation is scheduled for the January meeting.

ACTION: Bill Lennan to get the name of the person planning to develop an aquaculture operation off of Kawaihae Harbor.

STATUS: Awaiting information.

ACTION: Teri Leicher requested information on the Maui Community College naturalist training program.

STATUS: A copy of the MCC training syllabus was faxed to Teri and Patty Miller.

ACTION: Eric Gilman requested more information from the managers on the MOU renewal between the Navy and the Sanctuary regarding shared sanctuary property.

STATUS: According to the latest Conservation Subcommittee report, Naomi McIntosh explained that the previous MOU expired in 1996 and a NOAA office in Seattle (which serves as the property manager for the federal land where the Maui Sanctuary office is located) is the lead for NOAA negotiations with the Navy. She has requested clarification on the status of negotiations and what the Hawaii Sanctuary's role will be in the negotiation process.

ACTION: The SAC requested that the development of a naturalist certification program be fast-tracked for completion (before the next whale season). The project was given to the Program Coordination Subcommittee to address and report on at the next SAC meeting. Ms. Miller & Dr. Herman were asked to look at the curriculum of similar programs already in place to see if they can be integrated.

STATUS: Patty Miller has been working on collecting information on existing naturalist training programs. She has also been polling the SAC to get a list of topics that should be covered in a sanctuary naturalist program as well as ideas on who can conduct this program. Patty will provide an update on this at the January meeting.

ATTACHMENT 2

Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report

January 15, 2002

National Marine Sanctuary Program Updates

- A NMSP Researchers Coordinators meeting will be held from January 28 to February 1, 2002 in Charleston, South Carolina
- A NMSP SAC Coordinators meeting will be held from February 5 to 8, 2002 in the Florida Keys.

HIHWNMS Update

- October 17, 18, 19, 22 – Lori Arguelles, Director of the NMSF visited with Sanctuary staff and other organizations to explore partnership opportunities on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Kona. Thank you to Walter Haas, Patty Miller, and Mike Stanton for spending extra time with Lori.
- November 2001 - Renovations to the Sanctuary Education Center and the main building at the Maui headquarters site continue.
- November 6 – A Sanctuary All Hands staff meeting was held at the Honolulu office.
- November 27 and 28 - The HIHWNMS staff met on Maui to participate in training on Team Cooperation to Build a Better Workplace.
- November 26 to December 11 – Margaret Davidson, Acting Director of the National Ocean Service visited the Sanctuary offices on Oahu, Kauai and Maui.
- December 2001 – Sanctuary acquired part-time staff support for Oahu and Kauai to help with this year's Sanctuary Ocean Count.
- December 6 – The Sanctuary office in Lihue, Kauai held an official dedicated and office blessing. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Richard Kamanu (a native Hawaiian practitioner). Acting Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh, State Co-manager Jeffrey Walters, Kauai county Sac representative Dr. Walter Haas, Maui Sanctuary staff, Carol Carey and Joylynn Oliveria, Sanctuary volunteer Sheri Knapp, and Kauai Sanctuary liaison Jean Souza attended the dedication. The ceremony was followed by an open house attended by many of the Sanctuary's Kauai partners, colleagues, neighbors and volunteers.
- December 11 - The Education Center is open to the public again after a month and a half of closure for restroom construction and renovation. We are seeing an increase in visitors to the Center as whale season and winter fast approach.
- December 21 – Maui Sanctuary staff responded to a whale stranding. A female adult pygmy sperm whale beached itself at Sugar Beach, Maui at 3:00 p.m. Around 6:00 p.m. the animal was transported to the Maui Ocean Center at the direction of Maui veterinarian Greg Massey. The animal's condition continued to deteriorate overnight and the decision to euthanize was made the next morning.
- January 2 – David Mattila our Sanctuary research consultant will began on Wednesday, January 2nd. He will be stationed on Maui until May 2002.
- January 3 – The Kauai office, with assistance from Kauai's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, was given authorization by NMFS PIAO to respond to a

report of an entangled whale on Kauai. David Mattila on his second day with the Sanctuary was instrumental in providing direction to the Kauai team in helping to locate, photograph, and document the status of the entangled whale.

HIHWNMS Education and Outreach Activities

- October 24 - Students from Baldwin High School visited the Sanctuary Education Center
- November 4 - Maui staff conducted an oral history with John Wittenburg. He is a master woodcarver who previously worked out of the building currently housing the Sanctuary Education Center.
- November 7 - Maui staff along with State Co-manager Jeff Walters and representatives from NOAA Fisheries PIAO and NOAA Fisheries Enforcement held an Ocean User's Workshop in Lahaina. Approximately 40 people participated. Thank you to SAC member Richard McCarty for his participation.
- November 7 – Naomi McIntosh attended the Ocean Conference.
- November 9 - The O'ahu Ocean User's Workshop was held in Honolulu. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop that aims to educate boat users on humpback whale regulations.
- November 11 - Oahu staff and volunteers participated in the Second Annual Harbor Festival at the Aloha Tower Marketplace. Children were able to take part in games and crafts to learn about humpback whales. Thank you to Bill Lennan and Patty Miller for their help at the Sanctuary's booth.
- November 13 - The Ocean Users Workshop was held on Kauai.
- November 13 - The Maui site hosted a lecture by Christy Martin on invasive species entitled "Alien Species".
- November 14 - Maui staff met with Hawaiian organizations from Maui and Lanai.
- November 15 - The Ocean Users Workshop was held in Kona. Approximately 25 – 30 people attended. Thank you to Bill Friedl for securing the meeting room at NELHA for this meeting and attending the workshop. Thank you to Teri Leicher for her organization's participation in the workshop.
- November 16 - Students from Kekaulike High School spent the morning at the Sanctuary learning about whales, Hawaiian culture and the marine environment.
- November 16 - Maui staff participated in a Service Learning Workshop. The Service Learning Program at Maui Community College is teaching method that combines community service with academic instruction. The Maui site has participated in this program for two years.
- November 17 - Maui staff and volunteers participated in the Community Work Day Beach Clean Up. They tackled the beaches to the North and South of the Sanctuary headquarters site.
- November 17 - Maui staff and volunteers are attending a marine mammal class in preparation for the upcoming whale season.
- November 19 - Maui staff visited 3 sophomore classes at Lahainaluna High School. They discussed marine science careers with the students.
- November 24 - Maui staff held a meeting with fishpond president Kimokeo Kapahulehua and the kupuna (Hawaiian elders) of Maui to discuss restoration of Ko'ie'ie Loko I'a (fishpond) which graces the shoreline of the Maui site.

- November 27 – Naomi McIntosh provided a Sanctuary presentation to students at the University of Hawaii Man Ocean Environment Marine Options Program class.
- November 30 – The Sanctuary in partnership with the Aoao O Na Loko Ia O Maui hosted approximately 50 tour destination managers. The visit to the Sanctuary was part of a three-day workshop called Hui Kilohana which provided an opportunity for tour destination managers from around the state to experience many of the available opportunities and programs that they can direct tourists to while visiting on Maui.
- December 7 – Seventeen students from the Haleakala Waldorf school visited the Maui site. They were educated on humpback whales, the sanctuary program, seaweeds and the fishpond.
- December 7 – Joylynn Oliveira met with 7 meeting planners from the mainland to describe what the Maui site has to offer them when their groups visit the Maui area. This was a great promotional boost for the Sanctuary.
- December 10, 11, 12 – Twelve Americore students were on site helping with alien species removal and native plant vegetation.
- December 11 – The Maui Sanctuary office hosted a presentation “A Night of Nautical Song” as part of the Sanctuary’s monthly lecture series. Trevor Jones was the Sanctuary’s guest of honor. He entertained us with sea songs and whaling tales. It was a fun evening with the audience joining in and singing along with their favorites. We also learned a lot about the origins of seaworthy sayings such as “the crow’s nest” and “mind your p’s and q’s.” He even did a hilarious poem for us entitled “One Legged Man” which had everyone in stitches. The Maui Staff received lots of positive comments and request for him to come back.
- December 11 – The sanctuary and the Sea Grant West Hawaii Extension Program co-hosted a lecture in Kona. Steve Zeff was the guest lecturer. He presented information on Whales of the World.

Sanctuary Media Coverage

- October 2001 – Selected sanctuary events on Kauai are being listed on an on-line vacation planner called bestplaceshawaii.com.
- November 2001 – The Kauai Island Monthly, November 2001 issue, featured the HIHWNMS on it’s front page article entitled “Here come the Whales
- December 2001 – The Garden Island newspaper featured an article on Kauai Sanctuary Activities, entitled, “Time for Watchin All whales go by”
- January 2002 – Sanctuary activities on Kauai are being listed on hawaii.com

Upcoming events and dates

- January 2002 Marine Debris Conference Proceedings is scheduled to be released on CD RoM
- January 26, 2002 Sanctuary Ocean Count is being held on Kauai, Oahu, Big Island.

- Boat delivery: The Sanctuary boat is scheduled to be delivered to Maui February 11th.
- Science of Oil Spill meeting is scheduled for February 4 to 8, 2002. The meeting is being coordinated by NOAA/HAZMAT.
- February 6, 2002 Honolulu Advertiser Sanctuary Special Insert Publication date
- February 19, 2002 Kidscience special on the Sanctuary
- February 23, 2002 Sanctuary Ocean Count is being held on Kauai, Oahu, Big Island.
- February 26, 2002 KidScience special on the Sanctuary
- March 16, 2002 5th Annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Lighthouse.
- March 30, 2002 Sanctuary Ocean Count is being held on Kauai, Oahu, Big Island.
- April 6, 2002 Marine Conservation Day (tentative)
- May 13 to 14, 2002 Ocean Commission meets in Hawaii.

ATTACHMENT 3

State Co-Manager's Report

January 15, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager

Subject: Update from the Sanctuary Co-Manager for the period October 2, 2001 through January 3, 2002 (Prepared for the January 15, 2002 Council meeting)

Management Plan Revision

The draft revised Sanctuary management plan is in the process of NOAA clearance, prior to release for public review expected in February. A copy of the plan was transmitted to DLNR from NMSP in mid December, and DLNR will coordinate an internal review during the first weeks of January. State agency SAC representatives will serve as points-of-contact during this internal review. The timing and form of any comments resulting from this review will be determined on or before January 18, 2002.

Humpback Whale Research Permits

A total of eight State permits for take of humpback whales for scientific purposes were issued as of January 3, 2002. The DNLR is currently collaborating with NMFS-OPR Permits Division and NMFS-PIAO in a North Pacific Humpback Whale Scientific Research Permit Program Review, which include a review of the conditions specified for permits for research in Hawaii. Some issues being considered in the review include numbers and qualifications of research assistants, donor participation and photography protocols.

Research Bibliography

A draft version of the research bibliography was completed in mid December. The draft has over 130 entries. Additional citations recently provided by NMFS and other researchers will be added in early 2002. A "final" or "working" version should be available in March 2002.

Hawaiian Uses and Values Educational Poster

Sanctuary staff met with State Office of Planning staff in early December to discuss design concepts for the poster of Native Hawaiian uses and values that are associated with the Sanctuary and Hawaii's ocean environment. Some sample designs will be available for review in January 2002.

Education and Outreach

The state's public outreach coordinator has been busy developing material for the special *Honolulu Advertiser* section on the Sanctuary due out in early February. The first issue of the Sanctuary's new newsletter is also near completion and expected to be distributed before the end of January 2002. The public outreach coordinator also worked on press releases and promotional materials for the Ocean Users' Workshops and upcoming Sanctuary Ocean Count, as well as facilitated the production of a video of the Governor presenting welcoming remarks that will be featured on the CD-ROM version of the proceedings of the International Marine Debris Conference.

Ocean Users' Workshops

Workshops were held on Maui (11/7/01), Oahu (11/8/01), Kauai (11/13/01), and the Big Island (11/15/01). As in previous years, the focus of the workshop was on enjoying Hawaii's marine protected species without disturbing them. Ms. Margaret Akamine Dupree, of NMFS-PIAO, and Special Agent Victor Honda, of NOAA Fisheries Enforcement, gave presentations after opening remarks by Sanctuary staff. The workshops were well attended by a wide variety of ocean users and state and federal agency staff.

State and Sanctuary Involvement in Protected Species Stranding Response

Maui-based DLNR and Sanctuary staff coordinated with Oahu-based NMFS-PIAO personnel in responding to a beached pygmy sperm whale in Kihei on December 22, 2001. Numerous attempts were made to encourage the animal back out to sea, but euthanization was eventually deemed the most humane course of action. Results of the necropsy and laboratory analyses are pending, but veterinarians noted foam in the lungs – a possible indication of pneumonia. A dead rough-toothed dolphin stranded on Kauai in early December; due to the condition of the carcass, no necropsy was performed.

Other Activities

- 1) On October 10, 2001, the co-manager accompanied the acting sanctuary manager to an information update briefing with the staff of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
- 2) On October 25, 2001, the co-manager attended a DLNR-DAR-run scooping meeting with federal and state coral reef managers and scientists regarding MPA's in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The meeting was held in conjunction with a federally-sponsored coral reef mapping meeting.
- 3) The co-manager attended the Hawaii Aquatics Conference 2001 on November 3 and 4, sponsored by the Hawaii Audubon Society and DLNR-DAR.
- 4) The co-manager attended the NWHI CRE Reserve Advisory Council meeting on November 5, 2001.
- 5) On December 6, 2001, the co-manager attended the blessing and open house for the new Kauai office – a great event with *ono* food.
- 6) The co-manager continues to consult with NMFS-PIAO staff and marine mammal veterinarian Dr. Bob Braun regarding formalizing federal authorization and preparing an application for Prescott grant funds to assist the State in marine mammal stranding response.

- 7) The co-manager continues to work with DAR staff in developing an NMFS incidental take permit application for take of sea turtles associated with State-managed fisheries.

Cc: Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, DLNR Chairperson
William S. Devick, DLNR-DAR Administrator
Naomi McIntosh, Acting Sanctuary Manager

ATTACHMENT 4

Conservation Standing Committee Report

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

15 January 2002

The Conservation Standing Committee met on 8 January 2002

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Boater Outreach Working Group:** The Conservation Committee requests that the SAC Chair create a SAC Boater Outreach Working Group to work with NMFS and USCG enforcement to identify outreach priorities and define a role for the Sanctuary program. (John Reghi and a second person (SAC voting member) to be considered for co-chairs).
- 2. Enforcement Resolution:** The Conservation Committee requests that the SAC adopt a Resolution commending the work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary (to be drafted by Greg Kaufman).
- 3. Threat Assessment:** In light of information regarding NMSP plans to convene a national vessel strike workshop next fiscal year in California, the Conservation Committee recommends that the HIHWNMS not pursue convening a Hawaii vessel strike workshop, as it would likely duplicate the effort of the California national workshop, and instead the HWNMS should prioritize conducting a threat assessment as soon as possible (refer to update items 3 and 4 below).
- 4. Navy Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range (HISWTR):** The Conservation Committee requests that the Sanctuary request a presentation to the SAC by Robin Baird of NOAA to discuss recent research results, which have implications for the potential impacts from the planned Navy HISWTR activities, and request a presentation by the Navy to the SAC to provide a status report on planned implementation of the HISWTR.
- 5. SAC Minutes:** The Conservation Committee recommends that the SAC request that the SAC Coordinator produce and distribute to SAC members a brief summary document listing the status of all motions considered by the SAC, to accompany draft minutes for each SAC meeting. This would facilitate quick review of draft minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- 1. Navy and HIHWNMS MOU:** The Committee requested that the Sanctuary Managers provide a status report on efforts to negotiate a renewed MOU with the Navy to share federal land on Maui, as this is relevant to the SAC's position on the Navy's proposed Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range activities. Naomi explained that the previous MOU expired in 1996, that a NOAA office in Seattle, the property manager for the federal land where the Sanctuary office is located in Kihei, Maui, is the lead for NOAA in negotiations with the Navy, and she has requested

clarification of the role of the Hawaii Sanctuary office in the negotiation process and the status of negotiations.

2. **Letter on Navy nearshore training activities:** At the 7 August SAC meeting, the SAC adopted the Conservation Committee's motion to send a letter to the Navy to express a position on the Navy's proposed installation and operation of a Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range. The Conservation Committee prepared a draft letter and distributed it to the SAC via e-mail. The SAC reconsidered and approved sending the letter at the October 2001 SAC meeting. Unfortunately, the minutes from the October meeting did not include a record of the introduction or passage of the motion to approve the letter. Kellie checked the voting record and confirmed on 9 January 2002 that the SAC did vote to adopt the HISWTR letter. Kellie will pursue getting the letter signed and sent before the SAC meeting on 15 January 2002. The Navy expects to issue a final EA on their shallow water training range activities in the next 2 months.
3. **Vessel strike workshop:** At the March 2001 meeting, the Conservation Committee requested that the SAC consider alternatives to address the increasing threat to whales from collisions with vessels. The SAC agreed to consider convening a regional workshop on collisions between ships and whales. Brad Barr of NMSP has been assigned the task of convening a national vessel strike workshop in California, likely to be held in Fiscal Year 2003. In light of this information, the Conservation Committee recommends that the HIHWNMS not pursue convening a Hawaii vessel strike workshop, as it would likely duplicate the purpose of the California national workshop, and instead the HWNMS should prioritize conducting a threat assessment as soon as possible.
4. **Threat Assessment:** At the 7 August SAC meeting, the Conservation Committee introduced a motion to recommend that the Sanctuary conduct a threat assessment by allocating requisite funds to either (a) hire a contractor to conduct the research and produce a written product with management recommendations, or (b) convene a workshop (similar to a workshop convened in 1995) and produce an edited Proceedings with management recommendations. The SAC passed the motion. Naomi reports that she decided not to propose funding a research consultant to conduct a threat assessment study as part of next year's budget request for the Sanctuary as originally planned. Instead, she hopes to assign this research to a new research position or a consultant, to be implemented in FY 2003. The Sanctuary could then convene a threat assessment workshop, building off of the research results, perhaps in fiscal year 2004.
5. **South Pacific Whale Sanctuary Resolution:** The SAC approved the Conservation Committee's South Pacific Whale Sanctuary Resolution, the Sanctuary SAC Coordinator sent the Resolution to the U.S. representative to the International Whaling Commission, Rolland Schmitten of NOAA. The SAC and Sanctuary staff have not received a response from Mr. Schmitten.
6. **Management Plan and Reauthorization:** The draft revised Management Plan is going through NOAA clearance, the Sanctuary staff hope to share copies of the plan with the SAC in February, and public meetings are scheduled to start on 4 March.

ATTACHMENT 5

Program Development Committee Report

Dick Poirier, DBEDT – Office of Planning Representative

Ideas Received:

- Establish a Sanctuary *presence* on the Kona coast
- Establish a monthly Sanctuary *event* on the Island of Oahu
- Establish a volunteer *beachwatch* program on Oahu
- Establish a Sanctuary-approved *naturalist* certification program
- Establish a Sanctuary *citizen watchdog, team motion, sanctuary watch boateroutreach, or sound watch program*
- Establish a Sanctuary *business* certification program
- Provide information tapes for hotels
- Provide training aids for school teachers
- Establish a SAC committee to deal with coastal water pollution with special emphasis on dumping and waste disposal by cruise ships and commercial boat operations, enforcement, and contamination by non-point sources of pollution.

Numerous comments and suggestions were received with respect to the specific of the naturalist training program and certification, all of which were forwarded to Patty.

Initial Recommended Disposition(s) of Ideas:

- That the Chair appoint a working group to analyze and recommend a course of action for SAC consideration regarding a possible naturalist certification program

In keeping with the recommendation of the Conservation Standing Committee, that the Chair appoint a working group to analyze and recommend a course of action for SAC consideration of a Sanctuary-sponsored boater outreach, citizen watchdog, team motion, or sanctuary (sound) watch program.